(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment in this regard, so far;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard, on the basis of said assessment; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that this would have adverse effect on the cotton producers of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Farm and Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, proposes three types of subsidy payments in the cotton sector; fixed decoupled payments, loan deficiency payments and counter cyclic payment. Reports are indicating that the US Farm Bill will have a price depressing effect on world markets.

Amendment to the Seeds Act

1059. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the existing Seeds Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that sometime back, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh made some suggestions to him as to the amendments which Government should carry out to the Seeds Act;

(d) if so, whether the same have been carried out in the draft amending Bill; and

(e) by when the amending Bill is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft Bill to replace the existing Seeds Act seeks to remove it short comings by, *inter-alia*, providing for regaulation of all seeds, including seeds of non-notified kinds and varieties, compulsory registration of all seeds on the basis of value for cultivation, compensation to farmer if the seed fails to provide the expected performance, more stringent penalties for infringement, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The suggestions received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been incorporated in the draft Bill to replace the Seeds Act.

(e) The draft Bill has been sent to the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs, for vetting.

Encouragement for production of wheat and paddy

1060. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land under cultivation of wheat, paddy, oilseeds, pulses and other coarse foodgrains including vegetables and fruits in the country during each of the last two years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the farmers in various States have shown interest in production of other crops instead of wheat and paddy;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to encourage the farmers to produce wheat and paddy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The State/Union Territory-wise area under cultivation of wheat, paddy, oilseed, pulses and coarse cereals during 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is given in Statement-I. The area under vegetables and fruits for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given in Statement-II. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) It may be seen from Statement-I that at All-India level, there is a decline in area coverage both under wheat and paddy in 2000-01 compared to 1999-2000. The position is however different for different States as there is an increase in area coverage both under wheat and paddy in certain States, and a decline in certain other States mainly due to aberrant weather conditions. However, there is a long-term increase in area coverage both under wheat and paddy during the decade of nineties. The annual compound growth rate of area coverage during the decade of nineties under wheat and paddy was 1.67% and 0.62% respectively.